



# GORSE RIDE SCHOOLS

Gorse Ride Infant & Nursery School / Gorse Ride Junior School  
Executive Head Teacher : Miss Eileen Rogers

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it's not been quite the start to the term that we were all anticipating/hoping for was it. Yet here we all are in Lockdown 3, with a move to remote learning and what an adjustment that is!

I write on behalf of Governors when I extend our thanks and gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school who worked with minimum notice to place online all that they have. We think you'll agree that the introduction to daily live class check ins as well as the videos from teachers and support staff make such a difference to the children; not only do they see their peers but also their esteemed teachers.

For those of us at home supporting our child(ren) with their learning we certainly recognise the skills, patience and incredible aptitude that our teachers demonstrate every day. After all, if children could learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. The planning, preparation and pre-records are highly time consuming and the teachers, support staff, admin team and senior leaders have put hours into setting up new initiatives and putting together things to send home, doing their very best.

They also continue to put themselves at risk of COVID transmission in this global pandemic, so please, join us in thanking them and recognising their efforts are going beyond what is called for under normal circumstances. On that note please can we implore each of you to really consider your eligibility for "critical key worker" places at school. The spirit of the school provision is to provide care/supervision for children whose parents are key workers (away from the home). If you are working from home, then as difficult as it may be to work and support your child(ren)'s remote learning please really consider whether you require an essential place at school. The more children there are at school the higher the risk to the teachers and to the children of the keyworkers. If the numbers in school can be reduced, the risk of needing to close a pod for isolation is reduced which means that the pods can remain open for the children of the keyworkers that are absolutely essential to getting us through the pandemic.

For those of you with children of different ages at home you may well ask how you can get three different lots of work done with three children of different ages/abilities. The answer is you can't so stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do some bits independently otherwise try something they can all engage with. If you're trying to do this and hold down a demanding full time job working from home, realise that is an impossible ask and adjust your expectations. Please make contact with your child(ren)'s teachers if you need some support for your child(ren).

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**Gorse Ride South | Finchampstead | Berkshire | RG40 4EH | RG40 4JJ**

**[www.gorserideschools.co.uk/schools/GorseRideSchools](http://www.gorserideschools.co.uk/schools/GorseRideSchools) tel : 0118 973 4880 (Infants) | 0118 973 2666 (Juniors)  
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The University of Reading



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You are doing enough. You are loving the children in your care and supporting them through the most difficult circumstances. Look after yourself. Minimising stressors as much as possible at this time is vital for mental health; please don't let remote learning be the something that stresses you out. Please accept what is in your circle of control - as the primary educator at the moment, this is your call. The school make the provision of resources and the framework/structure to the lessons, it is really up to you how best your individual situation lends itself to its undertaking, some days will be better than others and that is OK. The school will continue to build on the provision and fix any teething problems as we go along.

These are exceptionally difficult times; we are all doing our bit to get through the best that we can. We wish you all continued good health and welcome any communication for the Governing Body via the office email address.

Very best wishes,

Katie Wery  
Chair of Governors (on behalf of all Governors)

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